

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: May 20, 2003
03-35

Contact: **Lynn Ballard / Joanna Bennett**
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CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST OFFICIALS ADVISE VISITORS FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Springtime on National Forests brings spectacular wildflowers, scenic drives, camping and long hikes. Before traveling to the forest, Caribou-Targhee National Forest Officials remind visitors to keep in mind the following information.

Campgrounds – Campground reservation can be made by calling the toll-free number 1-877-444-6777, or by visiting www.reserveusa.com. This provides an easy and convenient way to ensure that a campsite is available.

- **Dubois Ranger District** - Stoddard Creek will be opened for Memorial Day Weekend with water and garbage pick-up. Steel Creek will not be opened until June 6, tentatively. Roads are muddy and wet; officials would rather the public stayed off the roads until they dry out to prevent ruts and erosion problems.
- **Ashton/Island Park Ranger District** - All campgrounds will be open for Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting.

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- **Teton-Basin Ranger District** - Campgrounds on the district will be open one week before Memorial Day. The water will be on if weather permitting.
- **Montpelier Ranger District** – Campgrounds opened for Memorial Day Weekend are - St. Charles, Paris Springs, Montpelier Canyon, Willow Flat and Albert Moser. Traditional opening dates for Emigration and Summit View campgrounds are June 15; however, with the lack of snow they anticipate a possible earlier opening.
- **Soda Springs Ranger District** - All campgrounds will be open. There is no charge for the campgrounds but there is also no water provided.
- **Palisades Ranger District** – All campgrounds will be opened the Friday before Memorial Day.
- **Soda Springs Ranger District** - Most campgrounds are accessible, but a crew is planning on going through May 18 and 19 to do maintenance. There is no charge for the campgrounds but there is also no water provided.
- **Westside Ranger District** – All campgrounds will be opened.

Campfires - When building campfires, visitors are urged to use extreme caution. Campfires should never be left unattended and should be completely extinguished or “Cool to the touch” before leaving the site.

Road Conditions –Weather is always a factor with road conditions. Visitors are urged to use caution when traveling, especially during inclement weather. Travel on wet and muddy roads creates safety hazards and damages fragile soils. Visitors should contact local Forest Service offices to obtain current road information, including off-highway vehicle opportunities and travel maps.

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Users are advised to travel only on those routes marked open on a travel map. Questions regarding motorized vehicle use on specific roads or trails should be directed to a local Forest Service office.

Safety –Make sure someone knows where you are going and when you will return. Be prepared for inclement weather by taking the proper clothing and equipment.

Leave No Trace – Practicing Leave No Trace principals minimize the impact to National Forests. For more Leave No Trace information, visit www.lnt.org. These principals include:

Plan ahead and prepare

Travel and camp on durable surfaces

Dispose of waste properly

Leave what you find

Minimize campfire impacts

Respect wildlife

Be considerate of other visitors

For the most current information on campground, trail, road and recreation information, contact a district in your area:

Island Park/Ashton Ranger District, 208-652-7442 or 208-558-7301

Dubois Ranger District, 208-374-5422

Montpelier Ranger District, 208-847-0375

Palisades Ranger District, 208-523-1412

Soda Springs Ranger District, 208-547-4356

Teton Basin Ranger District, 208-354-2312

Westside Ranger District, 208-766-4743 or 208-236-7500

Supervisor's Office, 208-624-3151